Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously amended)

Claim 2 (original)

Claim 3 (original)

Claim 4 (previously amended)

Claim 5 (previously amended)

Claim 6 (original)

Claim 7 (original)

Claim 8 (previously amended)

Claim 9 (original)

Claim 10 (original)

Claim 11 (previously amended)

Claim 12 (original)

Claim 13 (original)

Claim 14 (original)

Claim 15 (previously amended)

Claim 16 (previously amended)

Claim 17 (original)

Claim 18 (original)

Claim 19 (previously presented)

Claim 20 (previously presented)

Claim 21 (previously presented)

1   A method for preventing an unauthorized access to information equipment comprising the steps of:

obtaining current utilization information of the information equipment;

storing passwords in an electrically writeable read only memory having access controls that control access to reading and/or writing the passwords;

informing a user of the current utilization information;

writing utilization information to be obtained next time or information necessary for obtaining utilization information next time into the electrically writeable read only memory and using the access controls to read and/or write utilization information and to block access to such utilization information; and

writing the utilization information in at least any one of when the information equipment is powered on, when the information equipment resumes from a power saving mode, and when a specific function of the information equipment is selected.

2   The method for preventing an unauthorized access to information equipment according to Claim 1, wherein the current utilization information includes at least one of the number of power-on times of the information equipment, the number of resumes of the information equipment from a power saving mode, the number of selections of a specific function of the information equipment, the number of activation times of the information equipment comprising including the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode, the last date and time of power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the information equipment, the last date and time of shifting the information equipment to the power saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the information equipment from the power saving mode, the last date and time when a specific function of the information equipment was selected or the last date and time when use of the specific function of the information equipment was completed, and a total use time of the information equipment.

3   The method for preventing an unauthorized access to information equipment according to Claim 1, wherein the current utilization information of the information equipment is obtained by reading utilization information that should be obtained next time and is written in the storage means, or by reading information necessary for obtaining the utilization information written in the storage means and performing predetermined calculation with using the information that is read.

4   A method for preventing an unauthorized access to a computer including the steps of:

obtaining current utilization information of the computer;

writing utilization information to be obtained next time or information necessary for obtaining utilization information next time into a nonvolatile storage means used for storing passwords that can lock storage contents and

locking the storage contents of the storage means; and

informing a user of the current utilization information in at least any one of timing just after the computer is powered on, and just after the computer resumes from a power saving mode.

5   The method for preventing an unauthorized access to a computer according to Claim 4, wherein the current utilization information includes one of the number of power-on times of the computer, the number of resumes of the computer from a power saving mode, the number of activation times of the computer including the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode, the last date and time of power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the computer, the last date and time of shifting the computer to the power saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the computer from the power saving mode, and the total use time of the computer.

6   The method for preventing an unauthorized access to a computer according to Claim 4, wherein the storage means comprises an EEPROM that can lock storage contents and release the lock of the storage contents when power supply is stopped.

7   The method for preventing an unauthorized access to a computer according to Claim 4, wherein the current utilization information of the computer is obtained by reading utilization information that should be obtained next time and is written in the storage means, or by reading information necessary for obtaining the utilization information written in the storage means and performing predetermined calculation with using the information that is read.

8   Information equipment comprising:

writeable read only storage means for storing passwords;

a utilization information management unit for obtaining current utilization information about information equipment in at least any one timing of when the information equipment is powered on, when the information equipment resumes from a power saving mode, and when a specific function of the information equipment is selected, and writing utilization information to be obtained next time or information necessary for obtaining utilization information next time into the writeable read only storage means;

using the controls for controlling access to the passwords to write and/or read and to lock access to such information into the writeable read only storage means; and

a teaching unit for informing a user of the current utilization information obtained by the utilization information management unit.

9   The information equipment according to Claim 8, wherein the current utilization information includes at least one of the number of power-on times of the information equipment, the number of resumes of the information equipment from a power saving mode, the number of selections of a specific function of the information equipment, the number of activation times of the information equipment including the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode, the last date and time of

power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the information equipment, the last date and time of shifting the information equipment to the power saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the information equipment from the power saving mode, the last date and time when a specific function of the information equipment was selected or the last date and time when use of the specific function of the information equipment was completed, and the total use time of the information equipment.

10   The information equipment according to Claim 8, wherein the current utilization information of the information equipment is obtained by reading utilization information that should be obtained next time and is written in the storage means, or by reading information necessary for obtaining the utilization information written in the storage means and performing predetermined calculation with using the information that is read.

11   A computer comprising:

a nonvolatile storage means for storing passwords that can lock storage contents;

a utilization information management unit for obtaining current utilization information about the computer in at least any one of timing just after the computer is powered on, and timing just after the computer resumes from a power saving mode, and writing utilization information to be obtained next time or information necessary for obtaining utilization information next time into the nonvolatile storage means, and locking storage contents; and

a teaching unit for informing a user of the current utilization information obtained by the utilization information management unit.

12   The computer according to Claim 11, wherein the current utilization information includes at least one of the number of power-on times of the computer, the number of resumes of the computer from a power saving mode, the number of activation times of the computer including the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode, the last date and time of power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the computer, the last date and time of shifting the computer to the power

saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the computer from the power saving mode, and the total use time of the computer.

13   The computer according to Claim 11, wherein the storage means comprises an EEPROM that can lock storage contents and release the lock of the storage contents when power supply is stopped.

14   The computer according to Claim 11, wherein the current utilization information of the computer is obtained by reading the utilization information that should be obtained next time and is written in the storage means, or by reading information necessary for obtaining the utilization information written in the storage means and performing predetermined calculation with using the information that is read.

15   A recording medium recording a program for making a computer execute processing including:

a first step of obtaining current utilization information about the computer in at least any one of timing just after the computer is powered on, and timing just after the computer resumes from a power saving mode, writing utilization information to be obtained next time or information necessary for obtaining utilization information next time into a nonvolatile storage means used for storing passwords that can lock storage contents, and locking the storage contents of the storage means; and

a second step of informing a user of the current utilization information obtained.

16   An information equipment program product on an information equipment usable medium method for preventing an unauthorized access to the information equipment the program product comprising the steps of:

software for obtaining current utilization information of the information equipment;

software for using the controls for controlling access to passwords to write and/or read and to lock utilization information into a writeable read only storage means used to store the passwords;

software for informing a user of the current utilization information; and

software for writing utilization information into storage means to be obtained next time the equipment is used by an authorized user, or said utilized information including at least one of when the information equipment is powered on, when the information equipment resumes from a power saving mode, and when a specific function of the information equipment is selected.

17   The program product according to Claim 1, wherein the current utilization information includes at least one of the number of power-on times of the information equipment, the number of resumes of the information equipment from a power saving mode, the number of selections of a specific function of the information equipment, the number of activation times of the information equipment comprising including the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode, the last date and time of power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the information equipment, the last date and time of shifting the information equipment to the power saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the information equipment from the power saving mode, the last date and time when a specific function of the information equipment was selected or the last date and time when use of the specific function of the information equipment was completed, and a total use time of the information equipment.

18   The program product according to Claim 17 including:

software for writing utilization information to be obtained or information necessary for obtaining utilization information into a nonvolatile storage means that can lock storage contents, and locking the storage contents of the storage means.

19. The method of claim 1 including the steps of:

   providing the writeable read only store with access control with the ability of providing in the alternative

   a) no access
   b) read only access
   c) no access constraints

   and with an access control to permit or not permit changing between the aforementioned states.

20. The method of claim 2 including the steps of:

   providing the writeable read only store with access control with the ability of providing in the alternative

   a) no access
   b) read only access
   c) no access constraints

   and with an access control to permit or not permit changing between the aforementioned states.

21. The method of claim 17 including the steps of:

   providing the writeable read only store with access control with the ability of providing in the alternative

   a) no access
   b) read only access
   c) no access constraints

   and with an access control to permit or not permit changing between the aforementioned states.